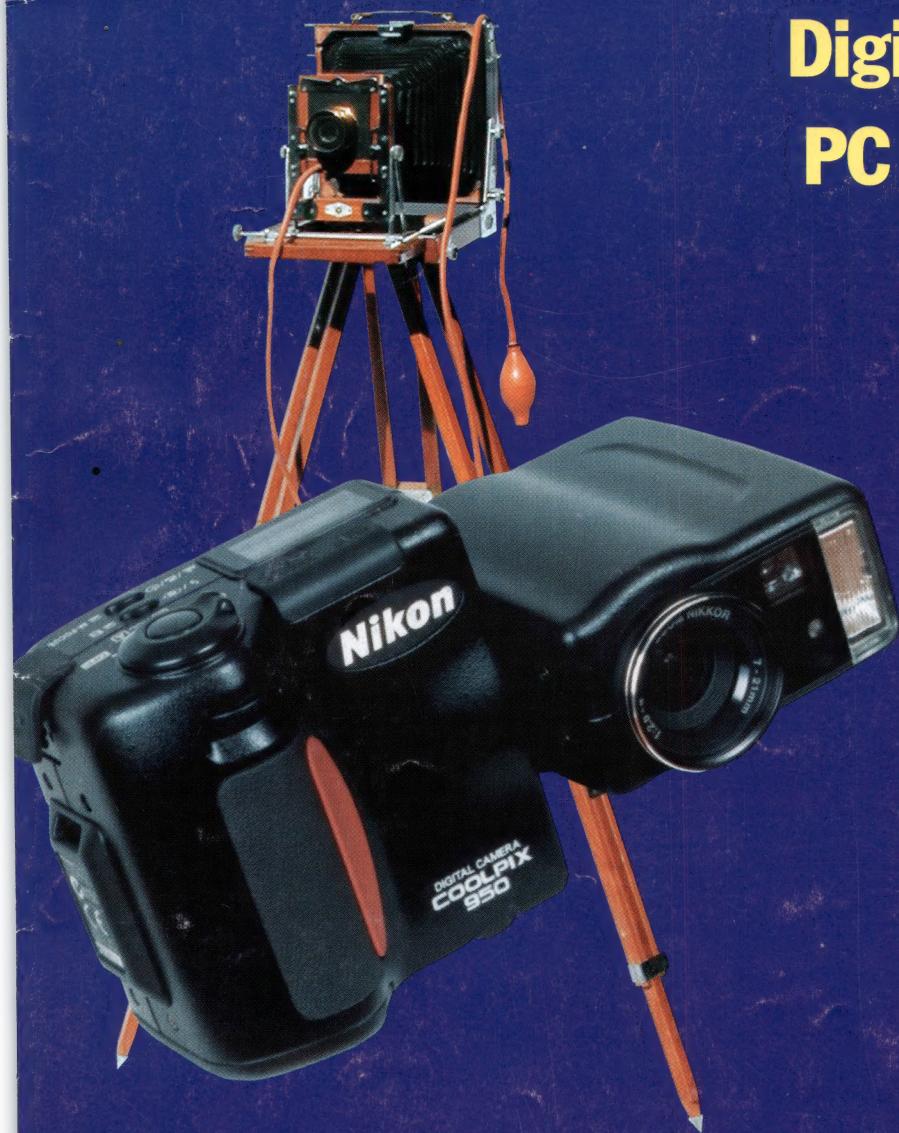


# PC Update

October 1999 Volume 16, Issue 9

## Digital Photography PC Bitmap Imaging



News  
Reviews  
Tutorials  
AGM and Elections  
Special Interest Groups

# TELEPHONE LINE SHARING '99

## Australian Made Solutions for Businesses of All Sizes

### OPERATE any FAX and/or MODEM on any VOICE line, with or without FaxStream Duet

#### VOICE - FAX

Choose **EASY-CONNECT PLUS** for no compromise Fax reception on any Voice line! Integrate Any Fax (or Modem) into any Telephone Line using your existing number and/or a FaxStream Duet number. Completely Automatic and Transparent operation, without Compromise. No special wiring, any device at any location.



#### FAXSTREAM DUET

Choose our Low Cost **FAXMATE** device when you wish to use your existing Fax Machine or Modem with the new Telstra FaxStream Duet service. Diverts calls made to your new Fax number direct to your Fax device and calls to your other number to your telephone. Connects in minutes to ANY telephone socket.



#### VOICE - FAX - MODEM

Choose **EASY-CONNECT PRO** for no compromise Fax and Modem reception on any Voice line! Automatic Voice, Fax and Modem operation all on one line using your existing number and/or a FaxStream Duet number and/or Easycall Multiple Number. Scanning Facility will allow your Fax to be used as a Scanner for your PC.



### OPERATE your MODEM, MULTIPLE MODEMS, or your EFT-POS on your FAX LINE

#### AUTO MODEM RECEPTION

Choose **FMX-PRO** when you wish to fit a Modem to your Fax line and the Modem also needs to receive data calls. Directs Fax calls to your Fax and Data Calls to Modem. Barge-In protection is provided to prevent one device interrupting the other while it is in use.



#### OUTGOING MODEM or EFT-POS

Choose **AUTO-CONNECT** when you wish to fit a Modem or EFT-POS unit to your Fax line, to make OUTGOING calls. Provides automatic connection on dialing. Other device is then locked out. Ideal for connection of Payphones, Modems and EFT-POS to any Fax, Commander, PABX or any type of Telephone line.



#### MULTIPLE MODEMS

Choose **AUTO-SELECT** when two or more Modems need to be connected to a Fax or dedicated Modem line. Fit up to eight Modems, or seven Modems and one Fax to the same line. Incoming calls are automatically routed to any device. Barge-in protection is provided.



### IMPROVE the EFFICIENCY or PROFESSIONALISM of any ordinary TELEPHONE LINE

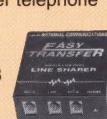
#### MUSIC OR MESSAGE ON HOLD FACILITY FOR ANY LINE

No longer is this important business facility restricted to Commander or PABX systems. Simply connect any radio, cassette, digital player, or even your PC to this low cost unit and add a professional touch to any existing line!



#### TELEPHONE CALL TRANSFER

Now you can answer a call on one telephone and then transfer the call to another telephone fitted to the same line, using your existing telephones. You can even use your phones as an intercom. No special wiring required. Up to 8 extensions per line. Barge-in protection is also provided.



#### DIGITAL MESSAGE CENTRE FOR MESSAGE ON HOLD

HIGH QUALITY Royalty Free Generic or Customized Digital Message for new installations or as a direct 'plug in replacement' for a Radio on Hold connected to any PABX, Commander or Key Telephone System.



#### DOOR STATION FOR ANY LINE

When a visitor presses a supplied door phone mounted at your front door or gate, your telephones will ring allowing you to answer and converse from any telephone. If your line is in use, a Call Interrupt facility will alert you. You can even open the gate or door with a command from your telephone.



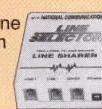
#### HIGH QUALITY INTERCOM SYSTEM

INTERPHONE provides LOUD, CLEAR, telephone quality INTERCOM communication for 2 to 64 telephone handsets. Simply pick up any telephone and dial the desired telephone. InterPhone uses its own telephone cable, but does not connect to a Telecom line.



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Now you can connect TWO telephones lines (Telstra, Optus, ISDN or Tie Line) to one Fax, Modem, Cordless Telephone, Answering Machine or any Telephone device. Receive incoming calls from either line. Make outgoing calls on either line.



### Turn ON, Turn OFF or RESET your PC, NETWORK or any ELECTRICAL device by TELEPHONE

#### REMOTE TELEPHONE ACTIVATOR

RTA will allow you to call in on your telephone line and SWITCH ON, SWITCH OFF, or RESET up to 6 separate electrical appliances, PCs or Networks using a touch tone telephone and PIN Number. Our Line Sharing technology means you can use it AUTOMATICALLY, on any existing line.



#### PC RESET UNIT

This low cost accessory for use with our RTA, is designed for quick and easy user fitting, direct to the back of ANY PC. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and RESET your PC from any Touch Tone Telephone, at any time, from anywhere in the world!



#### POWER CONTROL UNIT

This RTA accessory provides you with a simple '2 minute plug in' solution for controlling remote electrical equipment. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and TURN ON, TURN OFF or RESET the power connected to any Electrical Device from any Touch Tone Telephone.



### TELEPHONE LINE SIMULATORS for TESTING, TRAINING or DEMONSTRATION of all TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

#### RINGMASTER STD

This compact low cost device allows any two Telephone devices to ring and communicate with each other, without the need to connect to Two Telecom lines. Save 25c per call. Ideal for the Testing, Training & Demonstration of all telephone devices. Operation is Bi-Directional.



#### RINGMASTER PRO

Provides all of the facilities of our STD device and in addition generates Australian Dial Tone, Busy Tone and Disconnect Tones as appropriate. This unit also generates ALL EIGHT TELSTRA RING PATTERNS planned for use in Australia, including FaxStream Duet, Easycall Multiple Number and Diverted 'Call rings.'



#### RINGMASTER CLI

Provides all of the facilities of our PRO device and in addition generates TEN SEPARATE CALLING NUMBER DISPLAY (CND) test transmissions, in conjunction with any TELSTRA RING PATTERN. Alphanumeric and User Definable CND transmissions are also provided for.



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Email: [natcomm@natcomm.com.au](mailto:natcomm@natcomm.com.au)

# Melb PC Directory

Office, membership, deliveries

27 Dorcas Street  
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205  
(9 am — 5 pm) **9699 6222**  
Fax: **9699 6499**

## Mail

PO Box 283  
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205, Australia  
[office@melbpc.org.au](mailto:office@melbpc.org.au)  
Tricia Swan  
Margaret Greer  
Kerry Williams

## First Aid (Help) line

(10 am — 3 pm) **9696 9200**

## Management Committee

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*George Skarbek* [gskarbek@melbpc.org.au](mailto:gskarbek@melbpc.org.au)

## Online Services

### Melb PC BBS

(16 lines, up to 28.8 kbps) **9699 6611**

### Internet Service

64 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day,  
max 33.6 kbps **9686 4506**  
60 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day,  
max 56 kbps (V.90) **8626 5000**  
120 lines, up to 120 mins total, per  
day, max 56 kbps (K56flex) **9934 9400**

### Intranet Service

26 lines, 30/10 mins, extra if lines free,  
max 33.6 kbps **9690 5644**

### Home Page

<http://www.melbpc.org.au>

## PC Update

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### Production Editor

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### Contributions

All authors must lodge a completed submission form (included in the style guide) that confirms that the article is previously unpublished (if previously published, the author must have the right to authorise republishing), and original, save for any content which is properly credited, and that Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated may publish the article on one or more occasions on paper, the Internet or otherwise, edit the article and/or permit republication by non-profit organisations. These are PC Update's standard terms of publication.

Before starting a review or article, write to the editor, in case someone else has beaten you to it. Then download, read and follow the style guide STYLAUTH.ZIP from area PCU 351 of the BBS. Note, anonymous submissions are not accepted.

Authors must present a balanced view of the subject matter, based on a reasonable period of use — if the article is overly critical they should submit a copy to the distributor or manufacturer for comment. Copies of such correspondence should accompany the submission.

### Submitting articles and reports

Upload articles, reports and reviews to the BBS, as plain, unformatted

(ASCII) text files or plain unformatted (ASCII) text files bundled in a ZIP file with accompanying graphics. Do not use long file names or upload self-extracting EXE files. Make sure you are in the PCUP file area, before you upload the file. Leave a message to All (not 'Private') in the PC Update Discussion area. Submissions that conform to the above formatting requirements can also be sent by post, on a virus-free diskette, which will not be returned, to the Group's PO Box, or e-mailed, with attachments of less than 1 MB, to [pcupdate@melbpc.org.au](mailto:pcupdate@melbpc.org.au).

### Editing

All articles are edited for style, spelling, grammar and length. Articles that may not be edited or that do not meet our standards, will be rejected.

### Graphics

Supply graphics or screen shots, wherever possible, as colour, or black and white images, saved in one of the formats: TIF, BMP, PCX, WMF or EPS.

### Rejections

Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Articles with long file names, self-extracting files or virus infections are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.



# PC (President's Comments)

*Morris Tobias,  
President*

**M**any of you will already have heard that the Ziff Davis/APN deal for publishing *PC Update* is not going ahead. Although Ziff Davis has pulled out of our arrangement, we have reopened tenders and expect to make a decision about the publishing of *PC Update* in the near future.

A couple of weeks ago Gary Taig volunteered to put an interim *PC Update* together until we find a new publisher. No-one could disagree that the magazine you are holding at the moment is better than the newsletter we received last month. Our heartfelt thanks go to Gary and those who assisted him. They have all made a gargantuan effort in a very short time to bring this magazine to you.

## New SIG

A new Special Interest Group centered in the Dandenong foothills is due to hold its first meeting on Sunday 3 October at the Progress Hall, Boronia.

We welcome the new SIG and hope it fares well. Thanks go to Jim McNabb for organising the meetings. For additional information contact Jim on 9754 4862

## Additional Internet lines

An order has been placed for an additional 60 ISDN access lines on our Internet service. These should be connected by early October. An increase in bandwidth is also being negotiated.

## Annual General Meeting

As you'll see later in this issue, John Swale has announced the 1999 Annual General Meeting and elections for Melbourne PC User Group. Nomination forms for office bearers and ordinary committee members are included. If you feel you are able to contribute to the management of Melb PC, I urge you to think seriously about standing for a position.

Also in this issue is the Group's financial statement for the 1998-1999 financial year. Once again the group has exceeded all expectations and we find ourselves in an ever strengthening financial position.

## Late News

Sadly, just as we go to press I have received notice from Colin Lovitt that he is unable to continue in the role of vice-president. Colin's work takes him all over the country, often at very short notice and he feels he is not serving the group adequately when he is absent so often.

We will miss Colin's contributions to the committee decision making process. We thank him sincerely for all he has done and hope that one day soon his talents might again be available to the group.

*Morris*



## PETER Mc GUIGAN'S NOTEBOOKS GALORE

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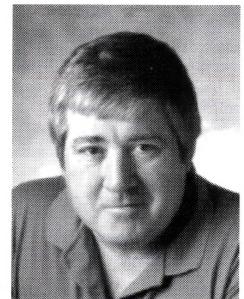
## Why does a newspaper look like a newspaper?

How many products can be planned, designed, manufactured and distributed within a month — or even a week, or a day? Newspapers have evolved into a lowcost method of distributing information, whether that is editorial, or advertisements, or a mixture. Many agencies, designers and bureaus, as well as those who want them, shy away from newspaper production because they are so different. And, if they do go ahead, they often turn out to be expensive and, well, they may be a newspaper shape, but they don't look like a newspaper. We can help. We don't print them, but we can help you create them. See our web page:

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# Editorial



Gary Taig

Isn't it terrific! We are members of a truly wonderful group that continues to grow and thrive and flourish. Every day there is more good news. Bill Ford reports this month that financially we are in good shape. We have another new SIG opening in the Dandenongs and Morris has more good news on the Internet Service. Everything's swinging.

Here's my first ever public confession. It's several years since I bought a computer magazine. After volunteering to produce this interim *PC Update* I went to the local newsagent to browse the shelves and get an idea of the quality of publication available, and of course, to gain some inspiration. Yep, it's all true; I hadn't looked at a commercial magazine for a long, long time and had to browse the current offerings in order to see just what the others even looked like.

Well, it turned out to be a short visit. I picked up a couple, put them straight down, bought *Windows NT* magazine for its content only, then went home and read it from cover to cover. There was simply no inspiration available; the

shelves were full of the same old thing. A completely new, albeit at this stage temporary *PC Update*, was going to be born.

Soon afterwards I posted a message in *melbpc.general* asking for assistance. Several people came forward but one person in particular stole the limelight. **Jim Colbert** just happened to mention he had a past that included photography and he mentioned he was interested in graphics. Being a keen student of both and knowing some of the content we had available for this month I grabbed Jim with both hands and got him involved immediately. The front cover of this issue is pretty much all Jim's work; we hope you like it.

Jim worked many hours, firstly organising the loan of the old and the new cameras, then setting up his studio and taking the photographs. He threw the lot into his favourite graphics software package and produced the cover background.

Congratulations and many thanks Jim for a truly magic result. A special thanks is warranted here also to **John Lee** from Shutter Box in Hartwell who lent

us the old *view* camera and to Maxwell Photoptics who lent us the expensive Nikon Coolpix 950 Digital. We don't mind giving a little plug to people who help the group in some way. By the way, the picture of the old camera was taken with the Nikon, but Jim had to use his own good gear to photograph the Nikon. The old box wasn't up to the task.

This issue is very thin; even though I had more material available there was little time. If you submitted a SIG report that didn't make it, or a members free ad or anything else please write or email me as soon as you read this so that we can ensure it's included in the November issue. Also, you won't find a membership application form or an Internet renewal form. I had to learn new DTP software to do this job and there was no time for mastering any special skills required for fancy work. Consequently this issue is fairly basic. It will improve. Next month we will have many more features and reviews and *PC Update* should be almost if not back to its usual size. I sincerely hope you enjoy these interim issues.

GT

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# Training Schedule — October and November

## Quicken for Small Business

**\$240.00**

Viv Martin

6.30pm - 9.30pm Tuesday 9, 16, 23, 30 November

*Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants using Quicken or Quicken for Business.*

**Prerequisites:** Basic Windows experience assumed. Ideally, ownership of the latest Australiamised version of Quicken for Windows.

## PowerPoint Intermediate \$60.00

Caroline Houston

6.30pm - 9.30pm Thursday 28 October

*This course gives a more in-depth perspective to creating presentations using enhanced graphics and special transformations from slide to slide. Students will create presentations that can be given as on-screen shows or printed for use on an overhead projector. This course is a must in preparation for your next meeting/conference delivery.*

**Prerequisites:** Familiarity with Win 95 including mouse and keyboard skills. This course also assumes familiarity with PowerPoint in creating basic slides and basic graphics or attendance at the Introduction course.

## Access Intermediate \$207.00

Peter Fallon

6.30pm - 9.30pm Tuesday 5, 12, 19 October

*This hands-on course is designed to build on a basic knowledge of the product, and teach you to how to perform many typical database operations and solve problems. You will learn how to build action queries that update the database, parameter queries, queries with calculations, forms and reports that require multiple tables and subforms/subreports. Most importantly, database design concepts will be discussed.*

**Prerequisites:** Prior knowledge Access is required, or attendance at the Introduction to Access 97 course

## Access Advanced \$207.00

Peter Fallon

6.30pm - 9.30pm Wednesday 10, 17, 24 November

*This hands-on course is designed to build on a good knowledge of the product, and teach you to how to perform many complex and advanced database operations and solve technical problems. Create complex queries, and look at how the query engine actually works. Build complex forms and reports and create Macros and Visual basic for Application modules to automate them into a single application. Discuss and understand the limitations of Access.*

**Prerequisites:** A very solid knowledge of Access 97 is required or attendance at the Intermediate Access 97 course.

## Introduction to the BBS \$60.00

Lynn Pollock

9.00am - 12 noon Saturday 16 October

*A basic examination of the Melbourne PC BBS covering initial logon, menu system, message areas, file areas and transfers, plus tips and tricks.*

**Prerequisites:** None.

## Introduction to the Internet \$60.00

Lynn Pollock

9.00am - 12noon Sunday 17 October

*An overview of the Melbourne PC Internet service. Live explanations of all the major programs that make up the Internet. Full detailed discussion of the hardware and software items involved, including modems. General questions concerning Internet connections.*

**Prerequisites:** None.

## Using the Internet with Windows 95/98 \$120.00

Lynn Pollock

9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 6 November

*This is the basic course for Windows 95 users. It suits people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the*

*Internet who want a full explanation of the basic set-up and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live student Internet connections to demonstrate and practice all the major components.*

**Prerequisites:** Win 95 experience.

## Internet - Effectively using Web Browsers \$80.00

Lynn Pollock

1.00pm - 5.00pm Saturday 16 October

*Complete examination and discussion of all the features in the latest versions of both Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring, bookmark and favourite management, saving images and data, offline viewing of saved information, effective use of search engines and techniques, and tips and tricks. Students have live Internet connections to practice their searching techniques.*

**Prerequisites:** Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

## Web Page Design \$200.00

Steven Goldate

6.30pm - 9.30pm Thursday 14, 21 Wednesday 27 October

6.30pm - 9.30pm Monday 15, 22, 29 November

*Students will learn how to write web pages for the World Wide Web. This includes HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) basics, use of HTML editors, both text and WYSIWYG. Students will gradually be introduced into the inner workings of HTML, learning how to write simple Web pages, then progress to more complex features such as using tables, frames, embedding sound files, incorporating public domain JAVA applets, how to create online slide shows and more. The course will cover such issues as features of good Web page design, FTP uploading issues and getting free stuff off the Net. Students will also learn about and will look at directory structures in HTML and file uploading with FTP.*

**Prerequisites:** Preferably, students should be familiar with the Internet, using a Web Browser, have some basic word editing skills and be familiar with Windows.

### **How to Buy a Computer - Free**

Ian Rankin

10.00am – 1.00pm Saturday 2 October  
6.30pm – 9.30pm Thursday 4 November

*What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk!*

**Prerequisites:** None.

### **File Management, Archiving & Compression Techniques - \$60.00**

Lynn Pollock

1.00pm – 4.00pm Sunday 17 October

*Explanation of file management including virus location, files you can delete, and file errors. Archiving, covering some of the more common programs used and basic backup strategies. Additionally some techniques will be discussed for files you download from the BBS or Internet. This course stands on its own and also complements Introduction to the Melbourne PC BBS, Communications Workshop and Introduction to the Internet.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be familiar with Windows.

### **Hardware Upgrade & Repairs**

**\$120.00**

Tom Coleman

10.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 9 October  
10.00am – 5.00pm Sunday 24 October  
6.30pm – 9.30pm Thursday 11, 18 November

*Students will be able to dismantle and re-assemble a computer, replace major components. Be aware of the basic "Rules" and conventions of computer building. Know enough to get started on simple jobs.*

**Prerequisites:** Familiarity with the basic functions of each of a computer's parts.

### **Introduction to UNIX \$60.00**

Len Krois

6.30pm – 9.30pm Thursday 25 November

*UNIX/LINUX basics for people who want a basic feel for the open systems environment. LINUX is a popular shareware version of UNIX that will run on IBM-compatible PCs. The session includes logging onto a UNIX system, finding your way around, manipulating files, viewing and editing text files, using the on-line text manual.*

**Prerequisites:** Command line computing knowledge preferred.

### **Starting Windows 95 \$149.00**

Mary Levens

6.30pm – 9.30pm Friday 22, 29 October  
9.00am – 4.00pm Sunday 28 November

*Introduces the computer novice to the concepts and skills required for effective use of the Win 95 environment. Covers basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and how to change the way Windows looks and works. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.*

**Prerequisites:** None.

### **Advanced Windows 95/98 \$120.00**

Lynn Pollock

9.00am – 4.00pm Sunday 7 November

*A full and detailed examination of Windows 95 for experienced users. Topics include adding hardware, registry control and editing, backup techniques, communications, networking with Windows 95, conflict resolution, enhancing performance, system maintenance, and many tips and tricks.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be familiar with Win 95.

### **Introduction to Networks \$120.00**

Len Krois

9.00am – 4.00pm Saturday 23 October  
*This session will show you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.*

**Prerequisites:** Familiarity with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.

### **Starting Visual Basic 6 \$212.00**

John Bourke

6.30pm – 9.30pm Monday 4, 11, 18 October

*This course gives an introduction to the Visual Basic development environment. Students will learn about event driven programs, controls and properties, essential VB language statements, data types, decision-making and looping. At the end of this course students will be able to write simple VB programs that interact with the user.*

**Prerequisites:** Familiarity with Windows, preferably Windows 95, including Mouse and Keyboard skills.

A basic general knowledge of computers. Useful, but not essential, is an understanding of programming concepts (including data types) and prior use of one or more programming languages.

If you have special  
training needs, contact  
the Melb PC  
administration office on  
9699-6222.

# Digital cameras arrive In the mainstream

By Steve Morgan

I purchased my first digital camera 12 years ago. It was a closeout model that I paid \$90.00 for on an online auction. The highest resolution it was capable of was 320 pixels by 240 pixels, thus creating a 76,800-bit picture. The camera came with a .5-megabit memory, so I am able to take about 8 pictures before the memory is full. There is no flash available. The size of the pictures when I print them is about 1 1/2 inch by 1 inch, and they actually look pretty good, until I try to enlarge them, then they look pretty bad. The camera is excellent for sending pictures via email since their small size makes them fast to send and receive. There is no way to display the picture I have taken, without sending them to a computer first, so I always have to wait to see how they look. I have never had to replace the batteries that came with the camera.

Today's cutting edge consumer digital cameras cost \$700-\$1000, and take picture resolutions of 1800 by 1200 bits, creating a picture with almost 2 megabytes of pixels. They come with flash memory cards that have between 4 and 32-megabyte capacities and have software that compresses the images so that you can take between 6 and 80 pictures before having to download the pictures to a computer. If no computer is available, just snap in a new memory card just like you would put in a new roll of film. For the ultimate in capacity, some cameras are now starting to support the new IBM 170 and 340 MB Microdrives, and Sony cameras will soon support a 200 MB floppy Disk that will allow for an almost unlimited number of pictures. Most new cameras come with a 1 to 2 inch LCD panel on the back so that you can preview the picture to see if you wish to keep it, that's a real money saver over film cameras. Many of these cameras have glass lenses and come with optical zooms that magnify up to 12 times. Flashes are standard and rechargeable batteries are required to keep you from

going broke! Printing pictures from these camera's results in 8 by 10 inch glossy pictures that are indistinguishable from those created by 35 mm prints!

As you can imagine, in-between my camera and the cutting edge cameras, there are a great many other digital cameras that are priced between \$200 and \$700. However, while there are many good cameras, there are some that will disappoint. Let me tell you what to look for when buying a digital camera.

**1.** The best quality cameras come with a glass lens. While several good cameras come with plastic lenses, they will be prone to deteriorate much more quickly than ones made with glass.

**2.** Look for a camera with an optical zoom lens. Most people take pictures of the great outdoors, and it is difficult to get close enough to get good detail in your pictures without an optical zoom. Many cameras advertise a digital zoom lens, just remember that a digital zoom just crops the current view and uses software to make the remaining image larger. Many cameras come with both kinds of zoom, for example a 3X optical zoom with a 2X digital to make it seem like a 6X zoom.

**3.** Examine how the camera downloads the pictures to the computer. The amount of time can vary dramatically depending on the method used. The slowest way is to have a serial port connection; a better way is via a USB connection and even faster is using the new Firewire connection that is starting to appear on computers.

Another fast option is to use a floppy disk, or a memory card reader that can be plugged in to the floppy disk drive.

**4.** Check and see how visible the LCD panel is in sunlight. A washed out screen will make it harder to see what you are shooting. The LCD also takes up battery power, and does not update very quickly. A regular see-through optical viewfinder is always nice to have in your digital camera.

**5.** Cameras that accept other lenses give you more flexibility. There are several cameras out there that allow you to screw on a wide angle or telephoto lenses. Putting in a filter also helps with special effects.

**6.** Always look for a camera that will output to a TV. This will not only allow you to see a much bigger picture to share with others, but by using a VCR you could make a tape of your favorite photos or an easily viewed slideshow of a trip or vacation.

**7.** Nice optional features include Picture delay, audio imprint, burst mode, thumbnail images and panoramic mode.

Digital cameras are definitely the wave of the future. But if you are not quite ready for the cost of a good camera yet, remember that you can always ask for your regular photos to be put on a CD. Kodak does this for a nominal fee, and each disk includes the software the will let you view the photos right from the CD.

Lastly, always do your research when buying a major item of this nature. My favorite research sites for digital cameras are [www.zdnet.com](http://www.zdnet.com) and <http://photo.askey.net>. Both sites let you see reviews and comments about many of the cameras that are available for purchase. If you are looking for a bargain, be sure to check out [www.onsale.com](http://www.onsale.com) or [www.ubid.com](http://www.ubid.com) and look for digital cameras that are being auctioned under the computer category.

*This article is furnished as a benefit of our membership in the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization to which this user group belongs. The author, Steve Morgan, is a member of the APCUG Board of Advisors. He represents Region 5, which covers AK, ID, MT, OR, WY, ND, SD and WA. Steve is also a member of the Editorial Committee. He's one busy guy!*

# Volunteers corner

## Jean D'Andrea

Things have been pretty quiet in the corner lately, although a few volunteers have come forward, and a few vacancies have occurred. Some vacancies have been filled, but others still need people.

## Monthly Meeting

You may recall we required a couple of members who attend, or would be willing to attend, the monthly meeting in order to staff a *Welcome Table*. We still need to find some friendly, welcoming people who would like to meet new members and members attending the meeting for the first time.

Remember your first meeting, and how it felt to walk into a room full of strangers? A bit daunting, so please think about being a Welcomer, so others needn't feel that way.

## Swap Meets

Most swap meets currently have enough volunteers, although Ivanhoe is the exception. If anyone could spare a couple of hours on the third Sunday in each month to help out, it would be great. You even get to attend the Swap Meet for free, and meet some other members into the bargain. Come on, all you members, you might even learn something whilst answering visitors queries.

If you'd like to volunteer for the other Meets, we could put you on our emergency list as sometimes the regular staff just can't make it for some reason, and it would be good to be able to call on you to fill in for them.

## General

One thing I have noticed, as I've worked on the Volunteer DataBase is that the same names keep appearing in various areas. The Group is fortunate to have these people willing and able to help, but they can't keep up the pace for ever; volunteer burnout is alive and kicking so come on, help out a little and get that warm fuzzy feeling!

Perhaps the Sig Leaders, and others who haven't contacted me so far with an up to date list of their current volunteers, could do so soon. Please? I really would like to get this data base completed, so that we'll have a current reference regarding the requirement for volunteers, that both the office and myself can use.

That's about it for now, so please think about helping out. Feel free to leave a message with the office or email — [jda@melbpc.org.au](mailto:jda@melbpc.org.au)

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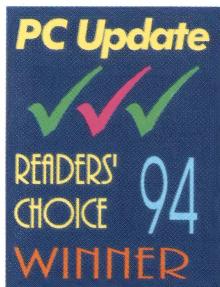
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# Financial Report for year ended

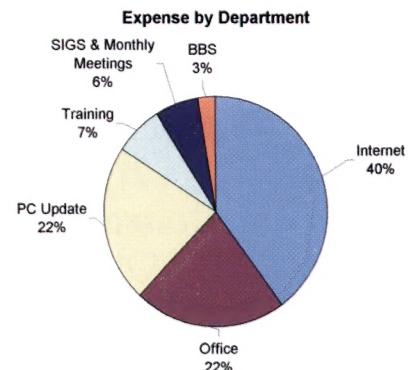
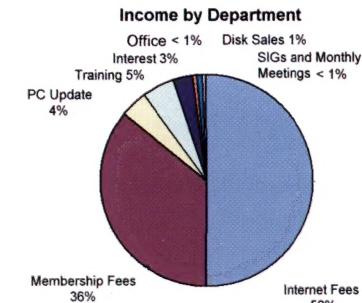
## 30 June 1999

I am very pleased to present the financial reports of the Group as at 30th June 1999 which indicate that we continue to be in good financial shape.

MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INCORPORATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999		
INCOME	1999	1998
Non-Operating	53,578	52,127
Disk Sales	13,336	2,472
PC Update Income	56,481	78,793
Membership	475,302	483,425
PD Sales	0	26,022
Training	63,902	63,962
Internet	663,395	555,112
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,325,993</b>	<b>1,261,913</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising & Promotion	5,452	10,004
Archive Storage	649	0
Audit & Accounting	2,750	2,750
Connection Costs	199,839	184,360
Bad Debts	0	0
Bank Fees	11,125	10,148
Cleaning	10,679	9,633
Commission Advertising	9,015	13,301
Conferences & Meetings	28,770	30,372
Consultancy	21,525	22,413
Consultancy — Marketing Project	4,125	0
Dealer's Deal Commission	50	0
Debt Collection Expenses	0	0
Delivery Expenses	66,458	65,432
Depreciation	248,114	246,893
General Expenses	380	-24
Heat Light & Power	13,349	11,254
Insurance	7,548	7,651
Legal & Litigation Costs	1,533	6,708
Postage	18,156	21,284
Printing & Stationery	14,602	16,077
Production — PC Update	159,028	166,440
Purchases Disks	2,279	5,291
Library Book Purchases	296	588
Rent Rates & Taxes	58,432	59,550
Repairs & Maintenance	13,179	6,322
Security	2,359	1,182
Software	4,841	2,310
Staff & SIG Amenities	3,090	2,260
Subscriptions & Donations	1,188	796
Superannuation	5,915	6,977
Telephone & Fax	99,114	107,730
Travel & Accommodation	13,484	17,427
Wages & Salary	91,033	125,062
Workcare	704	972
Total	1,119,061	1,161,163
Extraordinary Costs — Litigation	0	53,211
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,119,061</b>	<b>1,214,375</b>
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>206,932</b>	<b>47,538</b>

### BALANCE SHEET MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INCORPORATED FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

	30 JUNE 1999	30 JUNE 1998
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	\$8,147	\$15,163
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(\$3,000)	(\$3,000)
	\$5,147	\$12,163
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	\$77,638	\$121,023
Bank Bills	\$1,191,971	\$772,082
Term Deposit	\$32,500	\$32,500
Cash on Hand	\$400	\$400
Stock On Hand	\$182	\$364
Prepayments	\$8,635	\$8,711
	\$1,316,473	\$947,243
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors and Accruals	\$59,650	\$98,481
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	\$464,900	\$407,020
	\$524,550	\$505,501
	\$791,923	\$441,742
<b>Add Fixed Assets</b>		
Equipment & Fittings	\$1,219,434	\$1,114,569
Less Provision for Depreciation	(\$918,819)	(\$669,166)
	\$300,615	\$445,403
	\$1,092,538	\$887,145
<b>Represented By</b>		
Membership Equity 1 July 1998	\$885,452	\$837,915
Equipment Reserve	\$154	\$1,694
	\$885,606	\$839,609
Add / ( Less ) Surplus to Date	\$206,932	\$47,536
	\$1,092,538	\$887,145





*William Ford FCPA  
Treasurer*

**Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1999**

**1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (1981), which have been consistently applied. They have been prepared using historical cost convention and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

**2. Stock and Purchases**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, and costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

**3. Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are brought into account at cost less accumulated depreciation.

**4. Depreciation**

Depreciation on assets is calculated on a straight line basis over the useful life of the asset commencing from the time the asset is first available for use.

**5. Prepaid Subscriptions**

All subscriptions for membership relating to the period after 30 June 2000 and Internet relating to the period after 30 June 1999 are included in the accounts as current liabilities, and will be allocated to the periods which they cover

**6. Commitments and Contingencies**

	30 June 99	30 June 98
Future minimum operating lease payments		
Not later than one year	\$ 80,621	\$ 77,520
Later than one year but not later than two years	\$ 83,846	\$ 80,621
Later than two years but not later than five year	\$ 90,971	\$ 174,817
	\$ 255,438	\$ 332,958

7. During the year, the Group entered into contracts with Skarbek Consulting to the value of \$10,671 for the supply of resellable books. George Skarbek is a member of the Committee of Management. Contracts to the value of \$20,629 were entered into with Computer Rebuilds for the supply of hardware and software. Morris Tobias, President of Melbourne PC User Group is a director of Computer Rebuilds.

**MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC.  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS — FOR THE PERIOD 1.7.98 TO 30.6.99**

	1999	1998
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from members	471,286	491,514
Internet receipts	663,395	555,112
Other receipts	195,068	209,070
Payments to suppliers and employees	(851,380)	(897,017)
<b>Net Cash provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>478,369</b>	<b>358,679</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(101,865)	(409,283)
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(101,865)</b>	<b>(409,283)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>376,504</b>	<b>(50,604)</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of Financial Year</b>	<b>893,505</b>	<b>944,109</b>
<b>Cash at end of Period</b>	<b>1,270,009</b>	<b>893,505</b>

**MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS — FOR THE PERIOD 1.7.98 TO 30.6.99**

	1999	1998
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows		
1 Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash on Hand	77,638	121,023
Cash at Bank	400	400
Bank Bills	1,191,971	772,082
	<u>1,270,009</u>	<u>893,505</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Operating Income	206,932	47,558
Add/(less): Non cash items		
Depreciation	248,114	245,009
<b>Net Cash provided by Operating Activities before changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>455,046</b>	<b>292,567</b>
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	4,016	(8,089)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	182	602
(Increase) in Other Current Assets	76	3,154
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	19,049	70,445
<b>Net cash provided by operating Activities</b>	<b>478,369</b>	<b>358,679</b>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP  
INCORPORATED**

I advise that I have audited the financial statements, including the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts, of the Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated ("the Group") for the year ended 30 June, 1999 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Rule 37 of the Group's rules. I have not been requested to audit, or express an opinion on, any matters not contained within that Rule, and accordingly no such opinion is expressed herein. I have obtained all the information and explanations requested.

In my opinion:  
(a) the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts are properly drawn up:

(i) to exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 30 June, 1999, and  
(ii) in accordance with the books of account of the Group, and

(b) the rules of the Group relating to the administration of funds have been properly observed.

Dated this 14th day of September, 1999.

Peter G Salter, FCA  
Registered Company Auditor

# Looking inside the square

## A brief introduction to PC Bitmap Imaging

This article has been written mainly for those members who are considering using some form of digital photo manipulation on their PCs, or who wish to produce colour photos using their colour printers.

Current PC bitmap imaging, whether photo or video relies on little squares known as pixels which exist everywhere except on the final output, whether we have an analog signal, a digital signal or lots of dots.

In this article, I will give you a brief summary of just what goes on inside those little squares and how they are able to work with each other to accept or display an image.

### Monitors

#### (Standard, not LCD etc.)

Colour monitors have lots of pixels, usually from 28-40 or more every centimetre. (72-100 or more pixels/inch). Inside each pixel are three phosphor dots red, green and blue, which are activated by three guns at the back of the tube. When red and green are activated, you see yellow (Y) in that pixel. Likewise green and blue combine to make cyan (C), and red and blue give magenta (M). These are the colours used together with black (K), in the CMYK printing process. Dependent on the monitor/graphics card combination, there can be 256 levels (8 bit color) of each colour which allows for a combination of 16,777,216 colours (24-bit or truecolour). We won't go into bitplanes or lookup tables here, except to say that you look at 256 colours simultaneously, from a palette of over 16 million colours by using them.

### Scanners

Scanners and other CCD (Charge-Coupled Devices) also have these little squares. Lots more of them in fact.

Typically the number would range between 120 and 480 per centimetre in a consumer flatbed scanner, and around 960 per centimetre on a consumer film scanner. Professional scanners have

more because they are required to do a better job, while consumer units invent any extra squares they may need. This is known as *Interpolation*.

Each pixel in a CCD array responds to the colour of light it receives with one or more *bits* of information.

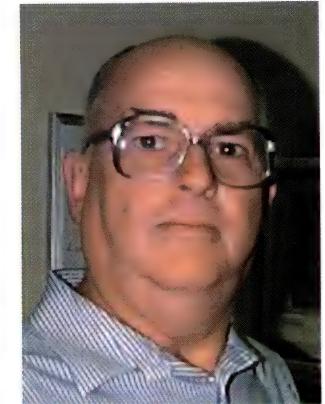
The *bit depth* of a consumer device is usually either 24-bit or 32-bit. As with monitors, 24-bit refers to 256 shades of each colour. The remaining 8 bits in 32-bit colour are used for what is known as an *Alpha Channel* which describes a transparency value for the pixel. When an image is later separated into distinct CMYK channels, 32-bit would then refer to 8-bits per each of the four channels. Separation, however, is not in the scope of this article.

Some scanners and image processing software also support 48- and 64-bit colour. Scanning at such high bit depths causes both high colour fidelity and huge files with more information than most software can handle. The scanning software usually analyses the file before saving and reduces it to a 24-bit subset of the most commonly used colours.

A word of caution: Scanner resolution is usually quoted in *dpi* (dots per inch). That is inaccurate; it should be *ppi* (pixels per inch) and is the first of two common misconceptions that a salesperson may have.

The second misconception: a scanner that has a *resolution* of 1200 x 600 dpi is optically a 600 *dpi* scanner, **not** a 1200 *dpi* scanner. The higher figure indicates that there are two banks of 600 *ppi* resolution CCDs.

I have lost count of the number of salespeople who have tried to tell me the higher value is the scanner's optical resolution. Many often quote the highest interpolated resolution. Don't even consider interpolation when purchasing a scanner. The image information in an optical pixel is the same as in a group of four interpolated pixels at 4800 *dpi*.



Lawrie Weston

### Camcorders & Digital Cameras

Camcorders and Digital Cameras have a fixed number of pixels. In PAL video systems, the grid is 740 x 578 pixels. They also invent higher magnification by actually increasing the displayed size of those pixels. Otherwise referred to as *Digital Zoom*. Digital cameras vary from 740 x 578 upwards (early models used Camcorder chips). Manufacturers currently try to blind you with science by using the term *mega-pixel*. That only means more than one million pixels (total) exist on the chip. A matrix of 1280 x 1024 pixels will have 1,310,720 pixels, which would place it in the mega-pixel category. We will shortly discover why you don't expect to blow up a poster print from that image.

### Squares and Dots

To correspond with these pixels, most printers use dots of various resolutions. While there is similarity in the resolution of these dots to the resolution of pixels, there is not uniformity. Printers have the ability to increase the size of the dots to various degrees, according to such factors as the type of paper being used. Pixels always stay the same size; at least in theory. For this reason common usage has done us a disservice in referring to all forms of resolution as *dpi*. This will become more evident when we move to different forms of both scanning and printing.

In determining the relationship of the number of pixels required in the source image, to give the required number of dots for the printer to use, there are many factors involved. Much of this relationship can be worked out only by trying different settings with your printer and discovering what works best in terms of how you want your picture to look. These tests are part of setting

up all future projects and will be referred to later.

I offer the suggestion that although modern inkjet printers have a 1440dpi capability, most people seem to use something more like 300dpi for the output resolution when determining the scanning resolution. This will be covered shortly.

## Putting it all together

How do we use these little squares in electronic bitmap imaging?

## Photographs

The characteristics of a photograph are described in terms of image size and magnification. Higher resolution is achieved by using larger negative sizes. Less grain at a given magnification is achieved by using finer grained emulsions. In short, conventional photographers are concerned with the area of a negative and the area that will be covered in the final print. This determines both the type and size of film used and the focal length of the lenses.

## Digital Photographs

Digital photographs are worked in terms of pixel resolution and printed in terms of printer resolution. Digital images are more about the number of pixels required on the longest dimension of the image. The rest will fall into place. The relationship between the electronic image and the hard copy image is the first and most important factor to consider at the start of a project. Yes, I said project because the whole digital process has to be considered as one, whereas in conventional photography there are two distinct stages, exposing film then printing, each of which can be variable.

## Project 1

*Given a photograph on film, negative or transparency, produce an inkjet print of a given size.*

**Factor1:** How many pixels are required along the longest dimension of the image that I am sending to the printer?

**Factor2:** What is the corresponding length of my source image?

**Factor3:** What resolution do I have to scan the source image, to give me the required number of pixels?

Fortunately, the majority of better image software packages do the mathematics for you; all you need tell the program is the output printer resolution in dpi and the software will work out the scan resolution. The resolution you choose is not necessarily the resolution you will actually set for the printer, but rather the resolution you have worked out by your tests mentioned previously. For this reason I will refer to an output resolution as ppi because the resolution I will be referring to is part of the file, not the output. I'll give you a practical sample, but you have to work out what is best for your own situation.

## Practical Example

*Working with the commonly used imperial standard, I am to print an A4 size image from a slightly cropped 35mm slide.*

I choose an output file resolution of 185ppi. Why was 185ppi chosen? Because from various tests it was determined that using a higher output resolution used more ink, when converted to dots by the printer, but produced little extra quality. Conversely, using lower output resolution showed an unacceptable print quality with this particular printer.

Length of image: allowing for border will be 10 inches. I will require 1850 pixels on the longest side of my image. Length of source used is 1.3 inches. My scan resolution will be 1423ppi. My printer will be set at 1440dpi

**Result:** My image will be 10 x 7.7 inches on an A4 sheet

If the print were to be produced commercially by an Iris or Pegasus printing system a set resolution would be that which the Bureau recommended and could have been eg 400ppi. Of course in this instance they would tell you to use 400dpi.

## Project 2

*I wish to print from a single frame grab from a video camera.*

**Factor1:** I already know the number of pixels on the longest dimension of my image is 740 pixels.

**Factor2:** Choosing the same output resolution as for the previous sample project (185ppi), my maximum length on the output image will be 4 inches.

**Result:** My image will be 4 x 3 inches (approx.)

## Project 3

*I wish to print from a digital camera image 1280 x 1024 pixels.*

**Factor1:** I know already that the number of pixels on the longest dimension of my image is 1280 Pixels.

**Factor2:** Choosing the same output resolution of 185ppi as for the previous projects my maximum length on the output image will be 7 inches.

**Result:** My final image will be around 7 x 5.5 inches.

## Project 4

*I wish to print an A4 print from a Kodak Photo CD.*

**Factor1:** Find the image size to open the pcd file that best suits the print size required. Poster size is 3072 pixels on the longest dimension. Large size is 1536 pixels on the longest dimension. Standard size is 768 pixels on the longest dimension. Snapshot and Wallet sizes are too small for consideration.

**Factor2:** At 185ppi what are the lengths of the print from the three given Kodak image sizes? Poster size would be 16.6 inches long. Large size would be 8.3 inches long. Standard size would be a shade over 4 inches long.

**Factor3:** Decide if you want a print that has approximately 1.5 inch border or one that fills the page. This is because Poster size would be too large for the page and large size would be slightly too small to fill the page. Of course a third option would be to print four standard size images on the page.

**Factor4:** Assuming the full page (less small margin) is required the choice would have to be, to open at poster size and then re-sample down to the required number of pixels using the imaging software. Alternatively you could open at large size and resample upwards if you were prepared to accept the slight loss of quality.

## Summary

An understanding of pixel resolution, bit depth, dot gain and other associated factors is necessary if you wish to have high quality results in computer manipulation of photographs.

While we are still using these little squares for bitmap images, it is necessary to look **inside** the square. □

# AGM and Elections

**N**otice is hereby given that the 16th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 1 December 1999 at the Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville at 6.30 pm.

The December issue of *PC Update* will give details of Committee nominations and proxy forms for those unable to attend in person.

## Agenda — Annual General Meeting

### 1. Minutes

To consider and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution:

"That the Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting held on 2 December 1998, be approved as a true and correct record."

### 2. Reports

To receive the report from the President.

### 3. Election of Committee of Management

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary members of Committee.

### 4. Accounts

To receive and consider the Treasurer's report and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution:

"That the statement pursuant to section 30 (3) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30 June 1999 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30 June 1999 be accepted."



John Swale, Secretary

### 5. Appointment of Auditor

Under rule 37 such Auditor may not be a member of the Committee, but may be a member of the Group, and shall be a member of the Australian Society of Accountants, Victorian Division or the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia, Victorian Branch, in public practice. □

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Pay Just \$249 and get a **FREE UMAX** 610P CCD colour Flatbed scanner with **BONUS** 32 bit **A3** scanning software!

Even if you already have a scanner, this would be a great gift idea because the scanner is **FREE!**

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## Nominations

Nominations may be made on the form opposite, a photocopy of the form or on any other form that includes all the information on the form opposite.

Nominations must either be posted to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
PO Box 283  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

or be hand- or courier-delivered to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
27 Dorcas Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Nominations delivered by fax, e-mail or BBS cannot be accepted. Nominations of candidates shall be in writing, signed by two members of the group and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). They must be received by the Secretary before 5.00 pm on Friday 29 October 1999.

Nominations received after the closing time will not be accepted.

Nominations not accompanied by all three signatures will not be accepted.

A Candidate may optionally submit one statement each, *not exceeding 100 words* [Rule 23 (6) (d)], in support of his or her nomination(s). This statement must be received by the closing time for nominations. Any statement received late, or exceeding 100 words, will be rejected.

## Nomination Form

Position(s) for which nomination is made (tick as appropriate).

President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Committee Member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Candidate's name and membership number

..... No: .....

Candidate's signature of acceptance

Candidate's residential address

Proposer's name and membership number

..... No: .....

Proposer's signature

Seconder's name and membership number

..... No: .....

Seconder's signature

Date ..... / ..... / 1999

# Special interest group meetings

SIG Co-ordinator, *Dave Botherway*

## Access (Database)

*access-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Monday  
6.30 — 8.30 pm  
**Ray Watson**  
9576 8520 BH & AH

## Assembly & Other Languages

*alt-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
1st Thursday  
7.00 — 10.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Felix Hofmann**  
9523 5400 AH  
**Don McKenzie**  
9521 3060 BH

## Ballarat

*ball-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
1st Thursday  
7.30 — 9.45 pm  
(except school holidays)  
Ballarat & Clarendon College  
614 Mair St, Ballarat  
VicRoads map 254 L12  
**Ken Smith**  
5332 7851 BH & AH

## Bendigo

*bend-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Wednesday  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
Girton Grammar School  
105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo  
(Vine Street entrance, then follow the signs)  
VicRoads map 282 K14  
**Russ Collins**  
5439 3708 BH & AH  
**Joe Henry**

## Clarion

*clar-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Wednesday  
7.00 — 10.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Chris Livingstone**  
9431 1897 BH & AH

## Communications

*comm-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Wednesday  
7.00 — 9.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Philip Lew**  
9822 2998 BH  
(brief calls)

## Daytime

*day-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Thursday  
10.00 am — 12 noon  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Don Buchanan**  
9509 7119 BH & AH  
**Graeme Minto**  
9440 5030 BH & AH

## Digital Photo

3rd Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Thom Lyons**  
0417 525 171

## East

*east-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Tuesday  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
Multinet Theatrette  
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont  
**Keith Beresford**  
9733 5044 AH  
9736 2515 BH  
**Margaret Brown**  
9874 5778

## East Workshop

*east-ws@melbpc.org.au*  
Sunday following the East SIG meeting,  
10.30 am — 2.30 pm  
Multinet Theatrette  
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont  
**Ken Gubbins**  
9898 5478 PH/FAX

## Graphics

*graph-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
3rd Monday  
7.30 — 10.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Yahya Abdul-Aziz**  
9562 1023 AH (brief calls)

## Hardware

*hardware-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
3rd Wednesday  
7.00 — 11.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Felix Hofmann**  
9523 5400 AH  
**Thom Lyons**  
0417 525 171

## LUBe

*lube-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
3rd Thursday  
7.00 — 10.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Thom Lyons**  
0417 525 171

## MACE

(*Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts*)  
*mace-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Sunday  
10.00 am — 2.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Graham Hurford**  
9416 1126 AH  
**Roger Davies**

## Music

*music-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Thursday  
7.30 — 9.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Yahya Abdul-Aziz**  
9562 1023 AH (brief calls)  
**Eric Best**  
9376 1984 AH

## New Users, East

*newe-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Tuesday  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
(except January)  
St Mark's Anglican Church,  
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds, Camberwell  
Melway map 45 J10  
**Doug Brooke**  
9822 3458 BH & AH

## NT

2nd Tuesday,  
7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Andrew Callaway**  
9619 4067 BH

## OS/2

*os2-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Tuesday  
6.30 — 10.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**John Angelico**  
9544 8792 BH & AH

## Programming

*prog-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Tuesday,  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Ross Hall**  
5428 6470 AH  
9699 4000 BH  
**Andrew Callaway**  
9619 4067 BH

## Quicken

*quicken-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Thursday  
7.00 — 9.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Viv Martin**  
9583 5372 BH & AH

## Retired & Interested Persons

*rip-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
10.00 am — 12 noon  
4th (not last) Friday  
Lutheran Church,  
25 Cypress Ave,  
Glen Waverley  
Melway map 62 A9  
**Ken Thomas**  
9884 5309 AH  
**Noel Peters**

## Video Editing (General)

*video-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Monday  
7.00 — 9.30 pm  
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn  
Melway map 46 E8  
**Albert Vanzet**  
9439 1768 BH & AH

## Video Editing (Non-linear)

*videonl-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
1st Tuesday  
(including Cup day)  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG room  
**Lawrie Weston**  
9742 3738

## Warragul

*warr-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
1st Friday  
7.30 — 10.00 pm  
Warragul Education Centre Smith St,  
Warragul  
VicRoads map 337 Q8  
**Lindsay Perston**  
5623 1756 AH

## Web Development

*webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Monday,  
7.00 — 10.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Thom Lyons**  
0417 525 171

## Web Development workshop

*webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
2nd Saturday, 10.30 am  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Thom Lyons**  
0417 525 171  
(members may bring their own systems)

## Western Suburbs

*west-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Tuesday  
7.00 — 9.00 pm  
Sunshine Squash Centre,  
cnr Kent and Stewart Sts, Sunshine  
Melway map 41 B2  
**Robert Mead**  
9312 5427 AH

## Windows

*win-sig@melbpc.org.au*  
1st Monday  
7.00 — 9.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room  
**Lynn Pollock**  
9598 3186 AH  
9533 5002 BH

Updates/ Corrections  
Please send to:  
  
Dave Botherway  
SIG Coordinator  
[daveb@melbpc.org.au](mailto:daveb@melbpc.org.au)

## Web Pages

Many SIGs have their own home pages.  
Links to these can be found at  
[www.melbpc.org.au/sig](http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig)  
  
SIGs are the life blood of MelbPC.  
Join one today

# SIG meeting reports

## Bendigo

The June meeting of the Bendigo Group looked at Microsoft Office, and with Alistair Shaw giving an interesting address on the use of Word, and many of the members being able to share their tips on the use of this program.

For July, Alistair again acted as convenor, with a session on hardware. He brought along his own computer, which he proceeded to dismantle to its individual components. This gave all the members present an insight into the components of a computer and how it goes together.

August saw Alistair showing us the ins and outs of graphics, using a scanner, manipulating and saving photos and line drawings.

The September meeting was an Internet session. This meeting was held at the Kangaroo Flat Secondary College where we were able to use the computers with an ISDN Internet connection. Alistair as usual gave every one present an excellent insight into the Internet, even those who considered themselves experienced gained tips.

October meeting is to focus on Excel and spreadsheets in general.

A visit to Fortuna Army Mapping facility is planned for November. This is an excellent chance for members to see first hand the incredible software that is used for mapping, also there will be an opportunity to look over the National Trust building which is the pride of Bendigo.

The committee is looking for new presenters and interesting site visits. Planned are speakers on Genealogy and Farm Software.

## Daytime

### August meeting

Presenter: Graeme Minto, with another useful presentation from a member of our own Daytime SIG. Graeme demonstrated the various reasons why Go!Zilla is an excellent file download manager. It is a *must have* if you download large files from the Internet.

Downloading a file can be interrupted for all kinds of reasons. If you were using Go!Zilla you would find that when you next return to that point, your file download is ready to be resumed. When the required file is available to Gozilla from a number of different sources, it can choose the fastest site for the particular download, and if that site connection slows down below a preselected speed it can automatically search for a faster site.

Graeme took us through many of the programme's configuration choices available through menu/Go!/Options. Mostly the default settings are fine to get you in charge of your downloads. Go!Zilla has user-defined categories for files. Quickly and easily drag-and-drop the files directly to the categories. It can be configured for automatic Internet connect and disconnect. It will even shut down your computer when done.

Go!Zilla also has recurring download scheduling in order to automatically update changing files such as stock reports and weather maps. It can automatically run all incoming files through the virus checker for validation. It can set security options on a site-by-site basis to ensure proper authentication from your favourite download locations, and operates as a minimised system tray icon. The file is gozilla.exe, version 3.5, 1.74Mb, Freeware, on Tucows Windows 95/98, Connectivity section. The program has a 5-Cow rating, and has a version available for Windows NT.

### September meeting

Ruth James will have taken us through many useful Windows housekeeping facilities. We received very good feedback from Ruth's Document System presentation, and we are looking forward to an informative morning.

### October meeting

Internet tips & tricks by Don Buchanan, along with the intricacies of Buddy-Phone will be your reasons for attending this meeting.

## East

### 'Beam Me Up Scotty'

Some of the East members were recently involved in stress testing the new Telstra product ConferLink Internet. At the August meeting Alister Webb (*Senior Product Manager of Multimedia Conferencing Services*) headed a team to demonstrate the practical application of the service which enable real-time sharing of electronic documents combined with telephone audio communication.

This enables many people to work collaboratively from remote situations without the need to travel. The charges incurred for the system compare very favourably with the cost of bringing together distant or overseas participants to an in-person meeting.

All participants see the same document on their own office PC and are able to access and edit the displayed document using a mouse. Any such changes are instantly visible to all other participants. This active corroboration greatly increasing the ability to learn and retain the information given. The configuration selected can determine whether all or some are able to access and interact or be limited to viewing only.

As with any face to face conference the optimum number involved would probably be limited but for some applications e.g. training, sales, marketing etc. the numbers could be far greater. The skills to access and use e-mail are all that is required to contribute to such a conference and as no Internet Locator Service is involved security is not compromised.

Tim Jenkins (*Project Engineer, Multimedia Conferencing Services*) discussed technical requirements. Of particular interest to many was the future concept of a virtual second line — a network solution that will allow the use of one telephone line for both audio and modem connection. For more information and FAQ visit [www.conferlink.telstra.com.au](http://www.conferlink.telstra.com.au)

Our thanks to Cr Peter Allan, Mayor of the City of Whitehorse who found time in a very busy schedule to accept our invitation to attend the meeting. He briefly addressed the group to give an update of current local issues and future challenges to be addressed by Council.

### **Internet Marketing.**

OnLine Auctions. Dave Botherway explained how one of the hottest topics on the web is controlled and we viewed the some of the extraordinary range of items currently being offered. He then guided us on a virtual shopping tour through the recently developed Coles OnLine site. [www.coles.com.au](http://www.coles.com.au) All very reassuringly familiar stuff — the aisles, trolley, choices galore, specials, Shareholder discounts and the visual steadily mounting sub-total to reach our minimum purchase. The only things missing were the frustrating searches for obscure items (computers do that very well indeed!) and the checkout queues.

Once the initial weekly or monthly shopping lists are prepared repeat or modified orders can be e-mailed very quickly. Specific preferences for the guidance of the person compiling the order can be included and delivery time in a two hour 'window' specified.

George Skarbek gave a glowing endorsement of the system and is an enthusiastic supporter of the OnLine Supermarket. He is convinced that the service fee is well worth the saving of time and effort, preferring to relax at home and wait for the refrigerated delivery to arrive rather than join the hordes shuffling through the local Supermarket.

### **East Workshop**

*Report by Gary Taylor*

There is no indication so far that our venue will be taken from us by the new owners of Multinet, so until further notice we will continue to meet at the Theatrette.

### **Beginners group**

A large group gathered to ask questions and to see demonstrations of basic computing. The facilities are strained — using a 14 inch monitor for 15 people to learn on is difficult. At the

next meeting we will try to use two linked monitors, and will move to a quieter section of the building.

### **Genealogy group**

The keen core of a dozen members stayed the full three hours and finally we got down to the heart of the SIG — genealogy. A (temporary) leader for the group was elected and everyone agreed that they would work together and be a self-help SIG. Most of the initial *computer ignorance* problems are sorted out and the group feels confident they are now able to use the Internet and software to assist in answering their genealogical queries. The September meeting will be the first true-to-its-subject meeting for the SIG — where several people will give their accounts of how they have so far done research and studies by going back into the cloudy past to retrieve information about their ancestors. A lecture-demonstration by a respected authority on genealogy is also being arranged, possibly for the next meeting of the East SIG.

### **Quicken**

*Report by Bob Mayston*

Despite cold rainy conditions outside a warm enthusiastic reception inside awaited 19 members who braved the elements for the meeting. As usual Viv Martin led the question and answer session and amongst the more interesting items were the following.

The ever popular question of tracking and trading in shares has brought a flurry of commercial programs dedicated to picking winners and profits for their owners. These programs vary in price; some in excess of \$10,000. We had a quick review of several and the suggestion that Ausinvest news group is a good site for checking on this activity.

The now documented conflict between Office 2000 and Quicken v7 was again highlighted. A member complained that Windows 3.1x was not year 2000 compliant. Suggested a patch may be available from Microsoft. In any event time to upgrade to a more recent version.

Again on shares Viv showed how to change and adjust the date span graph of recorded share prices.

Someone wanted to merge QuickBooks files of the same type into one company. No easy way. Suggested to export to spreadsheet to show consolidation results.

There was some debate over the merits of the various on-line banking services on offer and the relative costs. Likewise on-line share trading services, particularly that offered by Quicken (Intuit).

Viv demonstrated how to create sub items in the items list. Possible to have several layers of subdivisions.

Viv showed how to record takeover entries where shares and cash were offered in exchange for existing scrip. The main topic of handling loan accounts was detailed showing how to record interest, charges and bank fees as tax-deductable items in the business. For loan amortization Australia uses the Rule of 78 which is more tax saving than the calculation method given in Quicken.

After the meeting we retired to a nearby coffee shop for refreshments good company and friendly debate. You are all welcome. Remember the fourth Thursday of each month except December, at the club rooms Dorcas St. The topic of the month is posted in the melbpcSIG news group. Please contact Viv to suggest any suitable topics you would like covered. We try to cater for both the newcomer and advanced user.

### **Video Editing General**

*Report by Albert Vanzet*

For the second time Don Hawkins came to our meeting with a shop full of audio gear and prepared to continue his talk about "Sound and Studio 400". This time his address concentrated on the use of microphones with our video cameras. Don explained the difference between the various types of microphones and their specific uses. For general use and for interviews Don suggested the omni-directional microphone, which will take up the sound from a wide range around the mike. For wildlife photography, when we want to pick up the call from a bird at distance, he recommended a directional microphone. Don pointed out the various features to look for and

how to make sure that the microphone that we wanted to purchase would fit our requirements. From his bag of tricks Don produced a variety of microphones ranging from a cheap tie-clip mike to a foot-long directional microphone. It was reassuring to hear that most microphones are quite reasonably priced.

It was only during the break that we found the ghost of Murphy had joined our meeting. When our convener attempted to illustrate how to convert music from audiocassettes to a wave file for use with Studio 400 or DC10plus, Murphy's presence became evident. Despite having a computer expert and a sound expert on the job we found that the computer had become corrupted and the amplifier had blown a fuse.

Despite all efforts to rectify the problems we had to abandon our illustration and proceed with the theory only. However, we did manage to prove that we can use a two-and-a-half minutes song for a one-minute video by utilizing the first thirty seconds from the beginning and the last thirty seconds from the end of the song. A quick change of equipment enabled us to show some of our members' videotapes. Here we travelled from the Yosemite Park in the USA and the picturesque scenery of a German village to a Melbourne backyard where we saw how a simple bird feeder will attract some of Australia's most colorful birds.

Next month we will go back to basics with the Questions & Answers segment and some practical discussion about our Studio 400 and DC10plus programs. So, be prepared to ask your questions. We also intend to talk about what features are essential for a VCR that is used for video editing. We expect our members to bring in their latest productions for our segment *Members video*, always a highlight of our evenings.

Members are advised that our end-of-year meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 December, at the theatre of our Balwyn venue. Like previous years this will be a combined meeting with the Non-Linear SIG and we expect our members to make a concerted effort to produce their best video for that meeting.

## Windows

Report by Bob Mayston

The September meeting again attracted a capacity meeting of the curious, the besieged and admirers of the Windows Operating System. After the freebie video show the meeting opened on time at 7 PM and as usual there were plenty of questions for the problem solving segment led by Lynn Pollock. Among the more interesting questions were.

- 1) A member had recently loaded Windows98 Ver 2 upgrade. Thereafter but only on odd occasions, the system would hang during boot-up and display *Image 32 not responding*. A simple reboot solves the problem. Suggested causes are other products or residues of some deleted program. Suggested to run Conflict Manager, to check what substitutions Windows may have made to original setup.
- 2) There are some machines where Ver2 of Windows 98 causes problems on shut down. Advised in these cases there is a patch on Microsoft site to correct the problem.
- 3) Problems of instability in a machine traced to poor RAM connections. Removal and reloading RAM solved the problem.
- 4) A member had upgraded from Windows 3.x to Win 98 and concerned the time required for Windows 98 to load. As this was a networked machine this further slows the loading.
- 5) To access the Resource Kit in Windows 98 it is necessary to install it into the machine via tools\reskit\install from the Windows 98 CD.
- 6) To print *odds and evens* pages only (to facilitate binding) convert to a Word document and use the double sided or every second page printing feature in Word.
- 7) How to tell if it is a good motherboard? One that runs for 6 months without a problem.

The theme for the meeting was digital cameras. Developments in this area are happening almost daily and accompanied with corresponding reductions in price. Two members brought along their particular choice. Adrian exhibited a Sony FD71 bought in June 98. The prime reason for selection was it

outputs to a standard 1.4meg floppy disk so does not grab interrupts or resources from the computer. Images may be downloaded to any of several widely available image reading graphic programs. The software selected was IXLA reader. Photos taken may be instantly reviewed on the back LCD screen of the camera and deleted or reshot as needed. Batteries are rechargeable metal hydride and up to 950 photos claimed to be possible on one charge. This model camera comes with a 10x optical range and choices of picture resolution quality. Some examples of shots were shown and some differences from normal film observed and commented.

After the coffee break Paul showed his Kodak 265 camera. This records picture data on 16 meg ram chips. To view shots, the camera must be connected to the computer which has appropriate Picture Easy software loaded. Again 3 options of picture resolution possible. At highest resolution 30 pictures per RAM chip possible in the highest 1536 x 1034 pixel resolution. Lens range 38-115 mm. Like the Sony you have instant reviews possible on the LCD screen. The software is suitable for Windows95/98,NT and Mac machines. Batteries can be metal Hydride rechargeable or normal dry cells but the latter soon exhausted if flash and preview facilities used. Paul then showed some recent and local on the spot shots taken of members at the meeting. Again some minor distortions were visible and the limitations of flash shots more obvious than with film. The final demonstration was by Roswitha of her Epsom Stylus 800 colour jet printer. Photos of members taken a few seconds earlier by Paul were printed on a mat paper and showed the excellent results possible using a digital camera and colour printer considering the frame was A4 size. Even better results are possible using expensive glossy coated papers.

Members showed their appreciation for an excellent all round demonstration.

Remember the first Monday of the month January excepted, the Windows SIG meets at the Club rooms Dorcas st at 7 PM. Contact Lynn Pollock if you have a machine with a Windows related problem.



# Random Access



John Swale

## Unanswered questions

**From Joel:** In answer to Bulent Akkas question about his annoying problem with his computer freezing and then fixing itself. That happens to me as well, and it is because if you have been using it for a long period, it starts to heat up, and consequently, needs to *take a break*. It sounds like it is turning off, because it is doing what it would do if you put it into *suspend* mode. This turns off all non-essential electrical parts of the computer, and, on my machine, has also turned the monitor off before. This problem, to my knowledge, has only one fix: don't overuse your computer too much. It does no damage, but it is annoying.

**From Alan Marks:** The question posed by Bulent Akkas in the August issue of *PC Update* bears some resemblance to a phenomenon which occurs on my machine, a Pentium II 233. I have an external 100 MB Zip drive, connected to a dedicated parallel port. When I send data to the Zip drive, eg. when backing up my Quicken files, there is indeed a few seconds after clicking the back-up button when everything freezes, including the mouse, at the same time as the yellow *busy* light appears on the Zip drive. After the few seconds (I guess 2 or 3) everything goes back to normal. The same effect occurs at other times when there is no deliberate intention to write to the Zip drive, but I have not kept a record of when this is or whether it is reproducible. It is hardly even a minor inconvenience compared with other things that happen on the machine!

**From Bryan Wise:** The problem Bulent Akkas describes with the system hanging reminded me of a problem I had some time ago. My PC would just hang for no apparent reason and then continue on again after a gentle tap on the casing and there was an associated

whining noise like a disk spinning up. Eventually I tracked it down to a faulty connector between the power supply and the hard disk drive. When the hard drive was plugged into the power supply lead it had pushed the connector out of its housing in the plug and was just touching. Consequently any small vibration would cut off the power to the HDD and again a small tap would restore the power. A minor repair to the connector cured the problem permanently.

## Questions and Answers

**Q:** I have heard that the desktop on Windows 98 sometimes crashes. Would Windows 98 Special Edition fix it?

**A:** Both Windows 98 and Windows 95 crash after 49 days of continuous running. Windows 98 has some bugs and SE fixes many of these including the 49 day one, but whether it is more stable is hard to say. Some users have found that things that worked before don't work after installing SE.

**Q:** In Windows 95, when creating shortcuts for Notepad and Wordpad, you could specify the starting directory. Windows 98 will not let you do it. I have managed to get Notepad to work by copying it from Windows 95. How can you do it for Wordpad?

**A:** From George Skarbek: There is a way around this by using the Microsoft program called Tweakui. If Tweakui is not in the Control Panel, then it can be installed from the Windows 98 CD under \tools\reskit\powertoy. View the Readme file for installation information. After installation, open Tweakui, go to the General tab and alter the Folder from *My Documents* to the desired directory and from now on Notepad will open as before the upgrade. Tweakui has many options and am I sure that readers may find useful features there. It is a very small program

by Microsoft standards (156 KB) and it contains solutions to several other common questions.

**Q:** I put a CD-ROM in before Windows 98 had finished booting. I got a message about *backing up registry files, restoring registry files* and *you have restored a good registry*. Nothing else has happened since. If I hit enter, I get the registry checker again. What files should be backed up to get back to a good system?

**A:** I can't explain why this happened. The registry is stored in C:\Windows and consists of two files — system.dat and user.dat. You should back these up daily. The best way is to create a batch file eg regback.bat containing the line `xcopy c:\windows\*.dat c:\regback /H`

**Q:** I have an AGP graphics card that I installed using the motherboard CD-ROM. This works well under Windows 95 but causes pixilation under Windows 98. Why would this happen?

**A:** Get the latest video drivers from the web site. Also check the web site for any FAQs describing your problem. Look for problems involving the card with the motherboard or the chip set. There may be patches or workarounds or an email address for technical support.

**Q:** I am having problems printing from the internet. About 10-15 mm is chopped off the width. I have checked all the settings but cannot get the full print width.

**A:** Save the page and print it. Try changing the font size. Check the printer defaults as some printers have a larger non-print area. Use the File\Print menu in the browser rather than using the print icon.

**Q:** I live out of Melbourne and use an ISP in Geelong. I still have my Melb PC internet account and can read my Melb PC mail but cannot send replies.

**A:** Reading mail uses POP but sending uses SMTP. You need to change the SMTP settings for your Melb PC connection to send from your Geelong ISP. Contact your ISP or if you can send from your Geelong account, use the same SMTP settings. Alternatively you can send a request to Admin or Help at Melb PC to forward your mail to the Geelong ISP.

### Unanswered questions

**From Ted O'Grady:** I find myself in a dilemma that I never thought possible. I have some financial files that were created on a Version of WinCheck between January 1991 and August 1992. I need to access these files which are small in size, the largest being 5KBytes, average about 1KByte. I can locate version 1.0 of WinCheck that readily loads on my WIN98 SE system and runs. When I try to open the said files I get the unusual message that the files were created on a later version of WinCheck. How the program reads that information I cannot understand. If it said they were created on an earlier version! yeah I could understand. Does anyone have a later version that I could use to open these files?

**From Joel:** I am running a 200M MX, with 32 MB RAM, and every time I turn on, the screen turns on, but nothing else happens. It makes the initial start-up noise, then stops. I turn it off, then about 10 secs later turn it on again and all is fine. I don't know what could be causing this, as it just *started to happen*.

**From Jim Thyer:** I have a friend with an old Microbee, who needs to convert some old Wordstar files to IBM disk format. There used to be a program *Alien* or *PC-Alien* as I recollect. Is this still available? (I cannot ask Glenn Webster directly, as he has no email address in the magazine). If it is in the software library I would like to get it. I don't feel like having to do 100+ pages of OCR work if I can read the old disks.

# MONTHLY MEETING

All members and  
guests  
welcome

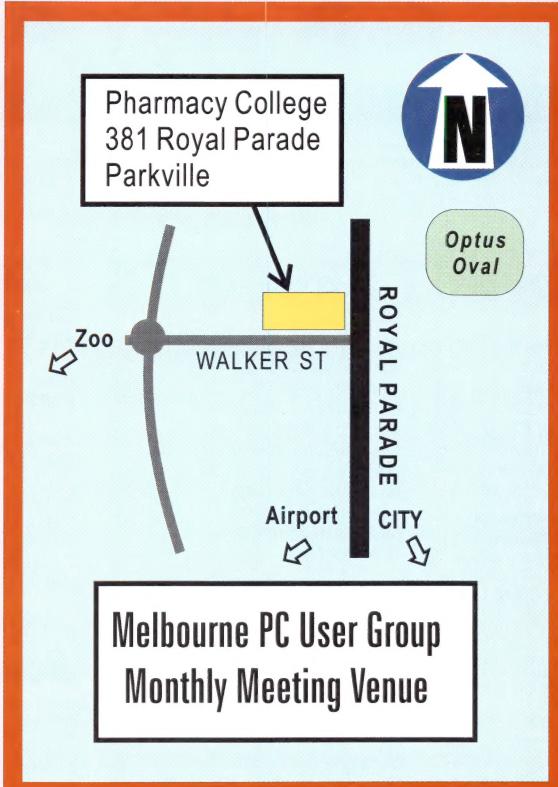
Pharmacy College  
381 Royal Parade  
Parkville

6:00 pm

First Wednesday each  
month

*Do you have a product that would interest our members? An average of over 400 members and guests attend our monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum to introduce and release new products to those who are both users and decision-makers.*

Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener, **Brian Hormann**, via the office, on 9699 6222 or e-mail [brianh@melbpc.org.au](mailto:brianh@melbpc.org.au)



Melbourne PC User Group  
Monthly Meeting Venue

### Next Meeting October 6

New Microsoft Windows 2000  
Unveiling  
HPM Computer Clock  
GoBack Software presentation

### Acknowledgments

*Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:*

**American Power Conversion** for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

**Computer Rebuilds** for the supply of equipment used in the Group's Communications Centre and in the production of *PC Update*.

**Michaels Camera & Video** for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

**Microsoft Australia** for many years of contributions and support.

**SONY Australia** for the supply of equipment used in the production of *PC Update*.

**Symantec Australia** for many years of contributions and support.

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## Falcon

- Intel Celeron 400 CPU
- 128K cache
- Gigabyte LX / i810 chipset
- 32M SDRAM
- 4.3G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M ATI AGP video on-board
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 40X CD-ROM drive
- PCI 3D sound on-board
- Pair of speakers
- Logitech mouse & pad

**\$1550**

## Condor

- 104 keyboard
- Micro ATX mini-tower case & PSU
- 56K internal PCI voice/fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

**\$2260**

## Raptor

- Intel Pentium III 500 CPU
- 512K cache
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 64M SDRAM
- 8.4G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M ATI Xpert98 AGP video
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 40X CD-ROM drive
- Creative SB128 sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad

**\$3255**

**- Free delivery & setup\*!**  
**- 2 year parts & unlimited labour warranty!**  
**- 3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on Hyundai monitor!**

\* Limited to Melbourne metro areas only.

## TECS on-site computer service

Do you have a sick computer in need of some attention? It's out of warranty and you don't know anyone you can trust? Afraid of unplugging all those cables to take the system to your nearest shop and then having to remember which plug goes where when you get it back? Why not give TECS a call? We can service most IBM compatible PC's on your premises, expertly and efficiently. We can also provide networking solutions. You know that TECS is one name you can TRUST.

**Call your local TECS store for details!**Picture for illustrative purpose only. Actual units will vary.

## TECS HOT PRODUCTS

### MEMORY

8M 72pin FPM	<b>\$39</b>
8M 72pin EDO	<b>\$35</b>
16M 72pin FPM	<b>\$65</b>
16M 72pin EDO	<b>\$65</b>
32M 72pin EDO	<b>\$129</b>
32M 100MHz SDRAM	<b>\$155</b>
64M 100MHz SDRAM	<b>\$305</b>
128M 100MHz SDRAM	<b>\$610</b>

### Memory for notebooks

Call for price & availability.  
We can source most types.

### IDE HARD DRIVES

4.3G Seagate	<b>\$185</b>
6.4G Fujitsu	<b>\$209</b>
6.4G Quantum	<b>\$229</b>
8.4G Seagate	<b>\$239</b>
10G Seagate	<b>\$289</b>
10G Quantum	<b>\$299</b>
13G Quantum	<b>\$349</b>
15G IBM	<b>\$375</b>
18G Quantum 7200rpm	<b>\$519</b>
20.3G IBM	<b>\$475</b>

### CPU's

IBM/Cyrix 6x86-333MX	<b>\$75</b>
AMD K6-III-400 3D	<b>\$285</b>
AMD K6-III-450 3D	<b>\$389</b>
Intel Celeron 400 PPGA	<b>\$179</b>
Intel Celeron 433 PPGA	<b>\$229</b>
Intel Celeron 466 PPGA	<b>\$279</b>
Intel Celeron 500 PPGA	<b>\$405</b>
Intel Pentium III 450	<b>\$445</b>
Intel Pentium III 500	<b>\$599</b>
Intel Pentium III 550	<b>\$1135</b>
Intel Pentium III 600	<b>\$1555</b>

### MOTHERBOARDS

Gigabyte ALI AGP AT 512K	<b>\$155</b>
Gigabyte AX ALI ATX 512K	<b>\$155</b>
Gigabyte LX Socket 370 AT	<b>\$175</b>
Gigabyte BX2000 ATX	<b>\$230</b>
Gigabyte SIS 6VXE ATX	<b>\$160</b>
Gigabyte BX ATX Ultra SCSI PPGA/SEPP adapt.	<b>\$495</b>
	<b>\$22</b>

### ATI graphics products

#### RAGE EXPERT128

**\$285**

#### RAGE MAGNUM

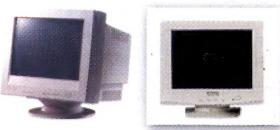
**\$395**

- 16M of memory.
- 128-bit graphics engine and memory access.
- Ideal for SOHO based PCs.

## Modems

Aztech V90 int. PCI	<b>\$85</b>
Aztech V90 ext. USB	<b>\$115</b>
KTX V90 int. PCI	<b>\$75</b>
KTX V90 ext.	<b>\$119</b>
Banksia V90 ext.	<b>\$225</b>
Netcomm V90 int. PCI	<b>\$89</b>
Netcomm V90 ext. Ultra	<b>\$275</b>
Netcomm V90 ext. USB	<b>\$289</b>

### 3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on all Magtron, Hyundai, Mirage & LG monitors!



### Colour Monitors

14" LG 44i	<b>\$285</b>
15" Magtron CM-15JN	<b>\$335</b>
15" Hyundai 5854	<b>\$335</b>
15" LG 55i	<b>\$335</b>
15" LG 57i	<b>\$359</b>
15" Sony 100ES	<b>\$579</b>
17" Samtron 70E	<b>\$575</b>
17" Hyundai	<b>\$559</b>
17" Sony 200ES	<b>\$959</b>
19" Viewmaster .26dp	<b>\$1029</b>

## The Electronic & Computer Stores

**Internet web address: [www.tecs.com.au](http://www.tecs.com.au)**

### Retail outlets:

City: 305 Latrobe St.

Coburg: 311 Sydney Rd.

Clayton: Cnr. Blackburn &amp; Wellington Rds.

Blackburn: 88 South Pde.

### Head office / warehouse:

Nunawading: 5 Silver Grove

Ph:(03)9602-3499 Fax:(03)9642-8551

Ph:(03)9383-7511 Fax:(03)9383-7896

Ph:(03)9562-9501 Fax:(03)9562-9261

Ph:(03)9877-7130 Fax:(03)9877-7382

Ph:(03)9877-7071 Fax:(03)9877-7081

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E & OE.